

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 24, 2007**

Members Present: Morris, Ennis, Carroll, Endres, Harden, Lank, Lardizzone, Magner, Newstadt, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Wasson and Webb

Members Excused: Kitson and Timberman

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: Tom Daws (VVA), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-DEL), and Don White (American Legion)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Morris opened the meeting by reporting that the Commission was honored at the first meeting of the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home.

Mr. McMullen announced that the AF Sergeants Association will have their Regional and Division Convention starting Friday at the Sheraton in Dover.

**MOTION BY LARDIZZONE TO ACCEPT BOTH THE MARCH COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AND THE APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY NEWSTADT, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Newstadt reported that the Northern Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) met on April 17, 2007. Commissioners Wasson and Endres and Tony Davila also attended. Mr. Davila gave an extensive report on the status of improvements and fund procurements. Discussion followed concerning the Northern Cemetery. Commissioner Newstadt announced that the next Southern FACC will be held on August 22, 2007, at 6:00 PM. The next Northern FACC meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2007, 1:00 PM.

### **COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

Chairman Morris reported that they are working on obtaining a speaker for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Mr. Davila reported that he spoke with the VVA and they are prepared for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Northern Cemetery.

### **FINANCE AND LOGISTICS**

No report.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Commissioner Carroll reported that the amount in the Delaware Veterans Home Fund is \$62,988.77 and the amount in the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home is \$481,948. He reported that he attended the first meeting of the Friends of Delaware Veterans Home and there was discussion concerning the use of the fund.

Mr. Reid updated the Commissioners on staffing for the Veterans Home and discussed the new employment process. There was discussion concerning job postings and the hiring process. Mr. Reid reported on the licensing progress and specific items that need to be addressed; questions and discussion followed. Mr. Reid outlined services that will be contracted out. The VA surveyors plan to return to the Veterans Home in September for a full survey. Mr. Davila clarified how the VA per diem will work and discussion followed. Mr. Reid informed the Commission that the social and clinical assessment of applicants has begun. He also explained why they have chosen to have only three residents in the Home for the opening and the criteria used to select those patients. There were questions and concerns about the process.

## **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

No report.

## **PERSONNEL**

No report.

## **MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS**

No report.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Chairman Morris clarified that because the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home fund is a non-profit entity, they do not have to comply with the Sunset Committee and therefore do not have to advertise their meetings. However, the meetings are open to the public and all Commissioners are invited.

## **BY-LAWS**

Chairman Morris inquired about the status of the changes to the Commission By-Laws. Mr. Davila stated that we were waiting for approval from the Attorney General's office.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Endres (40 & 8) – Reported that their Mid-Atlantic Conference will be held May 4-6, 2007, in Buffalo, NY.

Carroll (MOPH) – On Saturday, April 14, 2007, Chapter 9377 had their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Brunch and Mr. Davila was their guest speaker. The Department Convention will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2007, at the DAFB museum.

Lardizzone (DAV) – The DAV will be having their outreach vehicle and two National Service Officers at their building on Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. He attended the State Commander's dinner in NJ on Sunday. He will be leaving on May 3, 2007, to attend the Connecticut State Convention. Delaware's State Convention will be held June 22-23, 2007.

Thompson (MCL) – The Department of Delaware Marine Corps League will hold their State Convention on June 16, 2007, in Dover. The detachment in Kent County will be making its annual trip to Washington, DC to the Marine Barracks Evening Parade; the date has not yet been determined.

Morris (American Legion) – The American Legion is gearing up for their State Convention in July 2007. They are working hand-in-hand with Home Land Security on some issues. Their Service Officer will be returning on Monday.

Harden (WAVES) – They had their meeting on Saturday and she is working on the VA Patient Carnival scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007.

Newstadt – (JWV) – The annual installation of officers and luncheon will be held on May 20, 2007, which conflicts with the Newark Parade and he will be unable to attend the luncheon. He announced that he will be installed as the Senior Vice-Commander for Delaware. JWV will be starting their annual poppy drive with a substantial amount of the funds going to the Veterans Home. There will also be an Executive meeting on May 1, 2007, and he will be presenting the latest quality of living items list. He will be going to Quantico, VA, on May 25, 2007, to attend a memorial service for a close friend.

Lank (MOWW) – He reported that Region III MOWW will be having a meeting on Sunday in Harrisburg, PA. In addition, the National Guard Association will be holding their annual meeting on Saturday at Dover Downs and Mr. Reid will be providing a presentation on the Veterans Home.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairman Morris brought up the changes to the Veterans Home policy manuals and asked if Commissioners had questions and/or comments.

### **MOTION BY LARDIZZONE TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE VETERANS HOME POLICY MANUALS, SECONDED BY ENNIS, MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Morris discussed the donation list, calling it a living document, and discussed changes made at the special meeting.

### **MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT THE POPCORN MACHINE DONATION FOR THE VETERANS HOME, SECONDED BY LARDIZZONE, MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Carroll mentioned that after reviewing the donation list, he noticed that it does not state that approved items must go through the Commission; discussion followed.

**MOTION BY LARDIZZONE TO HAVE THE DONATION LIST BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMMISSION MONTHLY FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL, SECONDED BY WASSON, MOTION CARRIED.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:      MAY 22, 2007 (11:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:                              Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**